

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
For release: August 12, 2008

Contact: Howard Hunter
(541) 618-2256
Kimberly Hackett
(541)618-2309

BLM Extends Scoping Period for Monument Grazing Leases

Medford, OR – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Medford District announced that it will extend the scoping period for assessing changes needed to bring livestock grazing into compliance with rangeland health standards and the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument.

The rangeland health assessments and determinations on current grazing practices and the determination of current livestock grazing compatibility with the monument proclamation were released on July 10, 2008. The release of the determinations was also the start of the scoping process. The scoping period was originally scheduled to end on August 15, 2008. The BLM has decided to extend the scoping period for an additional 30 days. The scoping period will now close on Monday, September 15, 2008.

Within the Monument, eleven ranchers hold leases on nine grazing allotments. The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument proclamation directed the Secretary of the Interior to "...study the impacts of livestock grazing on the objects of biological interest in the monument with specific attention to sustaining the natural ecosystem dynamics." The results of the livestock studies, released in January 2008, were incorporated into both the rangeland health assessment determinations and consistency determination with the proclamation.

The rangeland health assessments, determinations, and scoping document, providing information on how to comment, are posted on the BLM website at

<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/plans/index.php>

Rangeland Health Assessments: Four of the five allotments administered by the Medford District are not meeting one or more of the five rangeland health standards.

Compatibility with the Monument Proclamation: In some locations, it was determined that current livestock grazing practices are not compatible with protecting the objects of biological interest within the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument principally because rangeland health assessment standards are not being met, or the rate of ecosystem improvement, based on previous management changes, does not adequately sustain natural ecosystem dynamics within the Monument.

"The results of these determinations will be used in the planning process to help us craft alternatives for livestock management changes and make decisions regarding modifying or canceling the leases," said BLM Ashland Area Field Manager, John Gerritsma.

About the BLM

The BLM manages more land – 258 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1.8 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface



NEWSRelease

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

3040 Biddle Road • Medford, Oregon 97504 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/medford>

mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, and cultural resources on the public lands.

About the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM) is part of the Bureau's National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS), created in June 2000 to bring into a single system some of the most remarkable landscapes found on public lands in the west. In total, the Bureau manages over 800 units in the NLCS including National Conservation Areas, National Monuments, Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Scenic and Historical Trails, and Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas. The CSNM was created by Presidential Proclamation on June 9, 2000. The monument encompasses 52,940 acres in southwestern Oregon and is the first monument set aside solely to preserve biodiversity. The area hosts an unusually high variety of species in a geographically small area due to several complex biological and geological factors and processes operating simultaneously. The Monument's remarkable ecology is a product of its location at the crossroads of two different mountain ranges – the Cascades and the Siskiyou – as well as its proximity to the Great Basin.

###

BLM
Medford District Office

